

COMPILING THE HISTORY OF THE VIRGINIA SECTION

The Virginia Section received its charter from the American Chemical Society on April 9, 1915. A precursor organization, the Virginia Chemists Club, operated from 1907 to 1915.

The first attempt at compiling a history of the Section was made in 1937 by a committee chaired by Dr. W. F. Rudd. Dr. E. W. Magruder, Major W. Catesby Jones, Mr. Edwin Cox, Dr. J. C. Forbes, Dr. Garnett Ryland, and Mr. F. P. Pitts served with Dr. Rudd. They included in their document a brief history of the Virginia Chemists Club. The 1907-1938 history was published in serial form in the *Bulletin of the Virginia Sections*. The fourteen installments appeared between December, 1939 and February, 1943.

In 1948, Randolph N. Gladding chaired a committee that compiled an update of the history. Rodney C. Berry and Robert H. Kean assisted in the effort which covered the period 1938 through 1948. This was published in the *Bulletin* in four installments, in the January through April issues of 1950.

Mary E. Kapp chaired the committee that compiled the history for the period 1948 through 1959. She was assisted by Lynn D. Abbott, Jr. and William E. Trout. This portion of the history appeared in the *Bulletin* in five parts, beginning in March, 1961 and ending in September of that year.

On September 14, 1965, Dr. Russell Rowlett presented a paper on "The Virginia Section's First Fifty Years" at the History of Chemistry Division at the national meeting of the ACS in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The paper was published in the December, 1965 issue of the Virginia Section *Bulletin*.

In 1975, Dr. William E. Trout, Jr. compiled a historical overview, including a chronology of important dates in the history of the Section. This was placed in the ACS Time Capsule as part of the 1976 centennial observance of the ACS.

In 1988, Dr. W. Allan Powell began work on an update of the history that would carry through 1990, when the Section would celebrate its 75th anniversary. Dr. Powell added the portion of the history that he wrote to the previously-completed compilations for 1915 through 1959, resulting in a comprehensive document titled "The Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society: The First Seventy Five Years." In 1996, Larry H. White, Chair of the Virginia Section, took on the task of publishing Dr. Powell's history in book form. The document was edited and reviewed, and photographs of key persons were added. Section members R. Gerald Bass, Franklin Kizer, Sheryl Baldwin, James Beck, Patrick Barber, and Eike Reich assisted in preparing the manuscript for publication. Hardbound and paperback copies were printed and distributed to Section members and to various other individuals and organizations. Copies of the history are still available.